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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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EDITORIAL OPINION

REPORT FROM EUROPE

(Winchester Star)

William Philip Simms, for years the foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, wrote last week from France:

"I am greatly worried about the state of our relations abroad. The United States is about as popular in Europe today as Hitler's Germany was in 1938-39.

"Thanks to the drumfire of Communist propaganda, plus our own errors, our aims are more and more misunderstood. Our allies more often say nice things about Malenkov and Molotox than they do about Eisenhower and Dulles.

"I doubt that we have a single ally we really could depend on if the Reds let fly with an atomic bomb on New York coupled with a warning to London, Paris et all to 'stay neutral' —or else.

"And unless there is a drastic change, things stand to get worse rather than better.

"Europe is sick and weak and tired. She welcomes anything that calls for less, rather than more, effort. She prefers panaceas to the drastic operation without which she can never hope wholly to recover. She will settle for even the bare illusion of a few years of peace."

This is a bleak picture, but it is painted by one of the best informed foreign affairs observers.

THAT BLEAK PICTURE

By way of comment upon the editorial reprinted above, we join in the opinion of The Star that it is a "bleak picture."

The easiest way out would be to find a scapegoat upon whom to pin the sad state of our foreign policy. There are, indeed, many who consider Mr. Dulles the weakest Secretary of State we have had in generations. Much had been expected of him. He has more training for his task than any one we can recall who held the position. That his tenure of office has been an almost unbroken series of failure and setback, is a cause of disappointment. And, much the same goes for Mr. Eisenhower. One of the big factors in his election was a feeling that his great experience in the war years in dealing successfully with the governments of Europe, and his skill in "getting along" with the heads of governments abroad, would make foreign policy the strong point of his administration. That it has not worked out that way, as indicated in the pointed statement of Mr. Simms quoted in The Star is most discomforting and even alarming. It is proof of life's uncertainties that the Eisenhower - Dulles team has disappointed so many in the conduct of American foreign affairs.

However, it is the opinion of this newspaper that Mr. Simms hit the nail squarely on the head when he said that "Europe is sick and weak and tired." When the situation is looked at from that angle, one begins to see the nature of the problem Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles have had to face. Mr. Dulles has had no easy job. Few Secretaries of State have had to face harder situations. And he has had to match wits and skill with one of the top diplomats of modern times, Mr. Molotov. It is by no means certain that anyone else could have done better than Mr. Dulles. He has tried very hard. He has not had strong support from his own party. And the policy of the present administration has not been to make our foreign policy bi-partisan. During the twenty years of Democratic administration, every effort was made to develop a sound bi-partisan handling of foreign affairs. Mr. Knox, Mr. Stimson, Senator Vandenberg and Mr. Dulles, all had top positions. The present administration has reversed this policy. No Democrats have been given positions comparable to the role played by Stimson, Vandenberg and Dulles. The result has only one merit. It fixes responsibility.

Our opinion is that the state of American foreign relations is more a problem of the times and the fact that smart Russian leadership is taking advantage of a "sick and weak and tired" Europe, than it is to the team of Eisenhower and Dulles. Yet, even that does not relieve the administration of a record of frustration in foreign policy.

THE TIE THAT BINDS

(Winchester Star)

Although it passes all but unobserved, with no closing of schools or cessation of business activity which marks most holidays, September 17 is perhaps the most significant of the nation's patriotic anniversaries. On that date 167 years ago, in the city of Philadelpiha, a majority of the delegatees to the Convention of 1787 approved the final draft of the proposed Constitution of the United States.

The vote brought to a close months of controversy and compromise among the representatives of sister, but suspicious states. It was the prelude to more months of bitter debate in the cities and towns and hamlets strung thinly along the Atlantic seaboard. The prospect of a strong central government was regarded skeptically by a people whom experience had made wary of strong central governments.

Only the knowledge that the alternatives were more dangerous produced the votes for its adoption. Even then the people believed they had established merely a confederation of sovereign states, a nation. That their union was indissoluble was a concept for the future.

Not on that September 17, 1787, even among the wise and foresighted men who were its authors, could any have visualized the mighty nation that this document would make possible. They hoped, surely, but none could have foreseen that their work would endure through every strain and withstand every storm that could afflict a nation.

From their mind and spirit came magic, a bond which was to become stronger year after year.

UNBALANCED BUDGET

(The Washington Post)

The Administration prediction of a 1955 budget deficit of 4.7 billion dollars—1.7 billion more than President Eisenhower estimated in January—is predicated on the assumption of continued good business. Even a small recession from the present level of activity would send the deficit much higher. Recent forecasts of a mild upturn during the remainder of 1954 undoubtedly were taken into account by the Treasury and Budget Bureau in making their prediction about the deficit. At any rate, the Treasury, with its enormous budget and debt problems, has as direct an interest in continued economic development as any corporation.

The cash deficit in the last fiscal year was only 500 million dollars, which means that the Federal Government was engaged in stimulating the economy only to a nominal extent. In the current fiscal year, it is exercising a larger stimulative effect. and the cash deficit is estimated at 2.1 bilion dollars. Part of this increase is the result of a conscious political effort. Even while the defense budget is being cut, spending for housing, shipbuilding highways, public health and rehabilitation projects and farm supports is being increased. Despite the new farm bill, the cost of farm programs in the current fiscal year will be larger by about 273 million dollars than in fiscal 1954.

Politically, the fact that the Administration is having so much trouble balancing the budget will give Democrats something to chortle about. Despite the fact that large economies have been made, Mr. Eisenhower may not see the budget actually balanced during his four-year term. However, it is much more sensible to examine the problem on its merits. An immediate balancing of the budget by the new Administration would have had disastrous economic effects. Republicans out of office often forget this. But they have been sensible enough not to follow blindly their campaign oratory.

The fiscal problem likewise needs to be examined in relation to total governmental expenditures. Since the Republican Administration began cutting Federal expenses, state and local governments have increased their spending by several billion dollars. The state and local increase has not equaled the Federal decreaes but state and local spending was up about 8 per cent from 1952 to 1953 and will be up probably more than this in 1954 over 1953.

The less the political furor over the deficit, the better for the country. Secretary Humphrey sometimes has seemed to make budget balancing a goal in itself. It is not. The goal is a balanced economy. In his press conference this week he put the emphasis where it ought to be when he said that in working toward the goal of a balanced budget the Administration was "keeping in mind the necessities of national security and a sound economy."

DRY WEATHER DELAYS LAWN SEEDING

Dry weather has delayed seeding of new lawns in many parts of the state, but homeowners still have a chance to prepare for a carpet of green.

A. G. Smith, Jr., associate horticulturist at VPI, says the results of some lawn studies will give homeowners an idea of how to proceed.

Lawn plots planted at the VPI arboretum August 20 included 20 different grasses and five different treatments. After 20 days, without any watering, the best stand of grass is where straw was used as a mulch. Plots mulched with vermiculite or sawdust had a very poor germination, while no grass has come up in plots without mulch.

Rye grass germinated in 8 to 10 days and has made the heaviest growth. Redtop alone and with Kentucky bluegrass came up in 8 to 10 days. Both have practically covered the ground where straw mulch was used.

When seeded the ground was dusty. The seedbed was prepared with a disc and with hand tools to a depth of 3 inches. Fertilizer was mixed in soil before seeding. One light rain fell 3 days after seeding. The plots are in full sun.

During the past six weeks many lawns have been examined. Some are poor or bare because of: clay soil in bad mechanical conditions; shade and close mowing; use of lime instead of fertilizer; leaves left on grass; weather, or wrong type of grass.

Old lawns in eastern and central Virginia with Bermuda (wire grass) sods were found to be attractive and well covered. Combinations of Bermuda and bluegrass are very satisfactory. In full sun or in extreme dry spells, the Bermuda takes over, while in moderate shade or in cool moist weather, the bluegrass is dominant.

New or old lawns are sometimes destroyed by fall armyworms. They usually feed at night and may eat all the grass in a few nights. Poison by dusting lawn with DDT or some other available poison.

WINTER PASTURE WILL HELP MEET LIVESTOCK FEED NEEDS

There's still time to seed winter pasture in Virginia — and farmers are urged by VPI specialists to do so as soon as possible.

John F. Shoulders, associate agronmist, says farmers can still expect some grazing this fall in most parts of the state, if there is a normal season, and good grazing will be available next spring. Winter pasture can mean a sizeable reduction in the amount of stored feed you will need to winter livestock.

A mixture of small grains seeded at the rate of 2 to 4 bushels per acre is satisfactory. Use equal amounts of oats, barley, rye or wheat, or any combination of those small grains. If you are seeding winter pasture under certain provisions of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program, wheat sh[...] not be included in the mixture.

In eastern Virginia, farmers [...] add 15 pounds per acre of [...] grass and 15 pounds of c[...] clover to the small grain mixture.

Fertilize well for highest [...] Use 600 to 700 pounds of a [...] 10 fertilizer per acre, or the e[...] lent rate of a 1-1-1 ratio ferti[...]

Winter pastures can serve as [...] er crops for fields that would [...] wise be left with no growing [...] over the winter. In addition to [...] grazing they furnish, winter [...] ture or cover crops will reduce [...] erosion and prevent much of [...] leaching of plant food that occ[...] unprotected soil. When cover [...] are no longer needed for pa[...] next spring, they make an ex[...] green manure crop to plow [...] and add organic matter to the [...]

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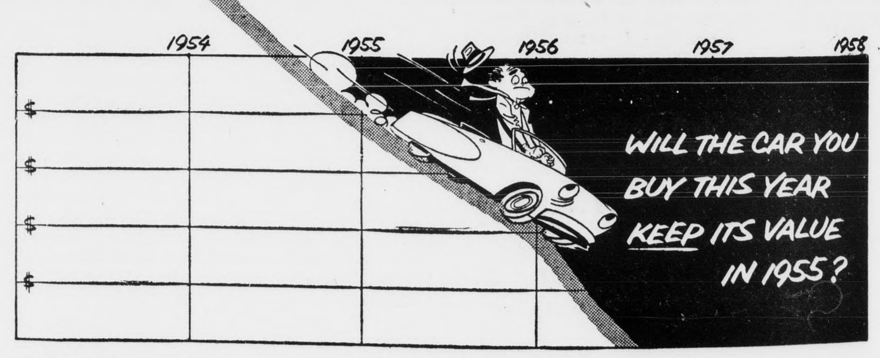

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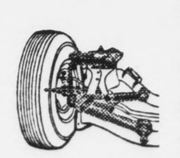

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F.D.A.F.

[G]rounds Are [Be]ing Readied [Fo]r State Fair

[...]chmond, Sept. 22.- There is a [...] and bustle of activity on the [...] grounds of the State Fair [...] Virginia as a small army of work-[...] and technicians make ready for [...]ia's greatest annual attrac-[...] that opens here Friday, Sept. [...] a nine day run.

[...] tents, to house the agricul-[...], swine, poultry and rabbit de-[...]ments have been erected. The [...] department to be under can-[...] will be the exhibits by the var-[...] state agencies that will cover [...] 23,000 square feet. Hard sur-[...] floors have been added.

[...] special 50-car train, bringing [...] midway with its 22 shows and [...] arrived in the city Monday [...]noon from Reading, Pa., and [...] erected on the grounds Tues-[...]

[...]e largets farm machinery exhibit ever to be displayed is being set up to the right of the main entrance. Scores of machines of all types are already on the grounds.

New fronts have been added to the swine and rabbit shows and a hard surface floor for the Commerce and Industry building.

The flow of traffic during peak periods will be greatly speeded up by the widening of Laburnum Avenue to a four lane divided boulevard all the way to the main gates. Enlarged entrance areas and new traffic control plans will enable cars to reach and enter the grounds at a much faster rate.

The livestock show will be the biggest ever exhibited with a record number of entries and exhibitors of beef cattle, swine and sheep. The rabbit and poultry shows are crowded to capacity, Allen Randolph, the livestock superintendent reports.

Special events will include a state championship jousting tourament on Saturday, Sept. 25, State Fair Beauty Contest Monday, Atlantic states 4-H tractor contest Tuesday, and parade of prize livestock on Friday during the visit of Gov. Thomas B. Stanley for "Governor's Day."

Social Security Coverage Is Given Farmers and Workers

Some 3½ million self-employed farm operators and over 2 million additional farm workers in the nation will be affected by the new social security law passed by Congress.

Administrators of the VPI Agricultural Extension Service are currently compiling information on the new law to be sent to county agents so they can help keep farmers up-to-date on the new rulings. Social security officers have all the details.

They explain that farm operators who make as much as $400 profit a year, as well as farm employees who earn as much as $100 cash pay in a year from any one farmer, will have old-age and survivors insurance protection under the new law which goes into effect January 1, 1955.

Monthly payments in old age, and monthly payments to survivors in case of the breadwinner's death, are some of the benefits for which such workers will now be eligible.

Under the law, workers and their employers, and self-employed people contribute to a fund while they are working. When earnings stop because of the death of the worker or because of his retirement at age 65 or later, payments are made from the fund to the worker and his dependents, or to his survivors. The tax for employees is two per cent of their pay, and this amount is matched by the employer. The tax for self-employed people is three per cent of their earnings.

Farmers employing workers whose annual earnings total more than $100 from any one employer will deduct two per cent of each worker's pay, add an additional two per cent, and send the total amount to the Director of Internal Revenue along with a list showing the wages and social security number of each employee. Self - employed farmers pay their three per cent tax once a year along with their income tax return.

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This little girl may never see her mother again.

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Or you *could* be behind the wheel of the car that snaps the thread of her life, or scars and maims and pains her until the end of her days.

It's not pleasant to think about it—but it *IS* time to think about it.

Every morning, millions of freshly-scrubbed little girls and boys set out for school — memory work done, written work ready to hand in, some with an apple for teacher and none with a care in the world. And every evening, some of them fail to come home. They've said their last goodbye to "Mommie."

Last year, 2,350 school children under 14 were killed between home and school and the National Safety Council estimates that approximately 150,000 others were injured. Legally, in many cases, it was "their fault." This doesn't make the tragedy any less. And besides, when children are hurt, it's never really "their fault." Children aren't accountable for the grim things in life. They're made for laughter and fun and love.

Every person who drives a car should think about this. Drive carefully, for in a careless moment, you may take away a small life . . . break a mother's and father's heart . . . and break your own heart, too.

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